

1    I CLAIM:

- 2    1.     A smoker for smoking foodstuffs comprising:  
3           a cooking enclosure;  
4           a vibrator capable of moving a fuel unit in a reciprocating motion;  
5           a heat source in operative association with said vibrator; and  
6           wherein smoke generated from said fuel unit by said heat source is deposited in said cooking  
7           enclosure.  
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9    2.     The smoker of Claim 1 further comprising:  
10          a combustion chamber that houses said vibrator and said heat source, said combustion  
11          chamber in communication with said cooking enclosure via a first duct.  
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13   3.     The smoker of Claim 2 further comprising:  
14          a fan, wherein said fan is in operative association with said first duct, said fan capable of  
15          drawing said smoke from said combustion chamber and inducing said smoke into  
16          said cooking enclosure.  
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18   4.     The smoker of Claim 3 further comprising:  
19          a second duct in communication between said cooking enclosure and the outside of said  
20          smoker;  
21          a first damper, wherein said first damper is in operative association with said first duct and  
22          said second duct, said first damper capable of moving between a first position

1            wherein smoke in said first duct is directed into said cooking enclosure, and a second  
2            position wherein smoke in said first duct is directed into said second duct and out of  
3            said smoker.

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5    5.    The smoker of Claim 4, further comprising:  
6            a second damper, wherein said second damper is in operative association with said first duct,  
7            said second damper capable of moving between a first position wherein said cooking  
8            enclosure is isolated from fresh air, and a second position wherein fresh air is  
9            allowed into said cooking enclosure.

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11   6.    The smoker of Claim 5, further comprising:  
12           a controller capable of monitoring and controlling at least one parameter of said smoker,  
13           selected from the group consisting of: ambient temperature of said cooking  
14           enclosure, ambient temperature of said combustion chamber, temperature of said  
15           foodstuffs, heat source power, vibrator power, fan speed, duration of the cooking or  
16           smoking process, position of said first damper, position of said second damper, timer,  
17           thermostat, and servo motors.

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20   7.    The smoker of Claim 5, further comprising:  
21           a heating element in said first duct.

- 1     8.     A method of cooking foodstuffs in a cooking enclosure comprising:  
2           loading a fuel unit onto a fuel unit holder;  
3           moving said fuel unit holder repetitively;  
4           heating said fuel unit, with said heat being of sufficient intensity and duration to create  
5           smoke; and  
6           applying said smoke to said foodstuffs in said cooking enclosure.  
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- 8     9.     The method of Claim 8, wherein applying said smoke to said foodstuffs further  
9           comprises:  
10          moving smoke through a duct using a fan; and  
11          positioning a first damper in said duct to direct said smoke into said cooking enclosure.  
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- 13    10.    The method of Claim 9, wherein applying said smoke to said foodstuffs further  
14          comprises:  
15          positioning said first damper in said duct to direct said smoke out of said cooking enclosure;  
16          and  
17          positioning a second damper to allow fresh air into said cooking enclosure.  
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